Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a microorganism-immobilized carrier for removing an exogenous endocrine-disrupting chemical in water, the method comprising:

mixing microorganisms, a hydrophilic prepolymer having a hydrophilic group, and a hydrophobic prepolymer having a hydrophobic group, wherein a mixing ratio of the hydrophobic prepolymer to the total weight of the hydrophobic prepolymer and the hydrophobic prepolymer falls within a range of 1% to 40%; and

polymerizing the hydrophilic prepolymer and the hydrophobic prepolymer to form the microorganism-immobilized carrier within which the microorganisms are inclusively immobilized, the microorganism-immobilized carrier being provided with the hydrophilic group and the hydrophobic group, the hydrophilic group having affinity for the microorganisms, the hydrophobic group adsorbing the exogenous endocrine-disrupting chemical, the microorganisms decomposing the exogenous endocrine-disrupting chemical.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a microorganism-immobilized carrier for removing an exogenous endocrine-disrupting chemical in water, the method comprising:

mixing microorganisms and a prepolymer having a single type of hydrophilic group and a single type of hydrophobic group mixed in its molecule, wherein a ratio of the hydrophilic group to the hydrophobic group ranges from 99:1 to 30:70; and

polymerizing the prepolymer to form the microorganism-immobilized carrier within which the microorganisms are inclusively immobilized, the microorganism-

immobilized carrier being provided with the hydrophilic group and the hydrophobic group, the hydrophilic group having affinity for the microorganisms, the hydrophobic group adsorbing the exogenous endocrine-disrupting chemical, the microorganisms decomposing the exogenous endocrine-disrupting chemical.

11. (Previously Presented) A microorganism-immobilized carrier produced by the method according to claim 9.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A microorganism-immobilized carrier produced by the method according to claim 10.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A method of removing an exogenous endocrine-disrupting chemical in water, the method comprising:

loading the microorganism-immobilized carrier according to claim 11 into a reaction vessel; and

flowing the water containing the exogenous endocrine-disrupting chemical into the reaction vessel, thereby bringing the exogenous endocrine-disrupting chemical into contact with the microorganism-immobilized carrier and decomposing the exogenous endocrine-disrupting chemical.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) A method of removing an exogenous endocrine-disrupting chemical in water, the method comprising:

loading the microorganism-immobilized carrier according to claim 13 into a reaction vessel; and

flowing the water containing the exogenous endocrine-disrupting chemical into the reaction vessel, thereby bringing the exogenous endocrine-disrupting chemical into

contact with the microorganism-immobilized carrier and decomposing the exogenous endocrine-disrupting chemical.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) A method of removing an exogenous endocrine-disrupting chemical in water, the method comprising bringing the water into contact with the microorganism-immobilized carrier of claim 11, wherein exogenous endocrine-disrupting chemical in said water is decomposed by microorganisms in said microorganism-immobilized carrier.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A method of removing an exogenous endocrine-disrupting chemical in water, the method comprising bringing the water into contact with the microorganism-immobilized carrier of claim 13, wherein exogenous endocrine-disrupting chemical in said water is decomposed by microorganisms in said microorganism-immobilized carrier.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method of removing an exogenous endocrine-disrupting chemical in water, the method comprising:

bringing the water into contact with a microorganism-immobilized carrier comprising: (1) a polymer having ~~at least one~~ a single type of hydrophilic group and ~~at least one~~ a single type of hydrophobic group, and (2) microorganisms immobilized within the ~~carrier~~ polymer, the ~~at least one~~ hydrophilic group having affinity for the microorganisms,

wherein the ~~at least one~~ hydrophobic group adsorbs the exogenous endocrine-disrupting chemical, and the microorganisms decompose the exogenous endocrine-disrupting chemical, and

wherein the polymer has a ratio of the hydrophilic group to the hydrophobic group of from 99:1 to 30:70.

24. (Canceled)

25. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein said hydrophilic prepolymer comprises ethyleneoxy and said hydrophobic prepolymer comprises propyleneoxy.

26. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein said single type of hydrophilic group is ethyleneoxy and said single type of hydrophobic group is propyleneoxy.

27. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein said single type of hydrophilic group is ethyleneoxy and said single type of hydrophobic group is propyleneoxy.